

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
GEORGIA 31334-0001

if said corresponding subscription does exist, then opening said corresponding subscription.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 10/24/2002.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 are pending.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnett et al. (USP 6,396,840).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention describes a calendaring system that retrieves information related to a calendar event. When a user creates a new calendar event, the calendar system determines which topics are related to the event, links the calendar event to topics that are related to the entry, and then stores the entry and associated topics, allowing the user to receive up-to-date information on the related topics when the entry is viewed. If a topic that is related to the calendar event does not exist, it can be created. Since calendar events and calendar users are able to link to each topic, data searching, retrieval, and storage is reduced.

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After Office Action
Entered 4/10/2003

In the Claims

For a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), each and every element of the claim must be found in a single reference. Barnett fails to provide or suggest many of the claimed elements and therefore is deemed an improper rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). While Barnett uses some similar terminology, it is the unique limitations, functions, and interrelationships of the elements used in the claims of the present invention that must be considered.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The examiner has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,396,840 (Barnett et al.), hereafter Barnett. Barnett discloses a system that allows a user to browse event categories that are of interest and view events that are associated with that category. The user then selects an event of interest and information associated with the selected event, such as the time and date the event is to take place, is viewed by the user. The user may then choose to add the event to his calendar, and the event is placed by the system into his calendar for later viewing.

Barnett does not retrieve information for calendar events as described in the present invention. Barnett requires a user to search categories, retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then store event information in a calendar. One result of the claims of the present invention is to eliminate the searching, retrieval, and storing of event information in order to reduce costs. The present invention allows a user to create a calendar event and the system subsequently (not before) searches and matches topics that are related to the created event. Links to those topics that are related to the event are created, allowing the user to later view up to date information on the associated topics of the calendar event. In addition, Barnett does not

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subscribe electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers; rather, provider information is searched, and electronic calendar events are chosen according to the requirements and specifications of the user.

As per claim 1, Barnett does not receive a calendar event and determine the information topics that are related to the calendar events. Rather, information topics are searched by a user in order to see the calendar events that are available to add. Further, Barnett does not provide a subscription or link to each of the calendar events as they are created. The present invention allows the user to develop a subscription with live information topics so that the information remains up-to-date on the created calendar event. Barnett does not provide or create a subscription to information topics that are found to be related to a user's calendar event. Barnett adds an event to a user's schedule when the user chooses the event, that is, the user locates the calendar events that are available and chooses which calendar event (e.g., which date and time) to add to their calendar. No additional future information is provided by using the Barnett system.

Claims 1, 18, and 21 have been referenced by the examiner as correlating with column 11, lines 28-31 and figures 6, 7A and 7B, 8, and 11 of Barnett. However, this description discusses the user accessing events in which the user has pre-defined as favorite events or events of interest. First, Barnett does not disclose incorporating a link to a subscription(s) within a calendar event. Second, Barnett does not subscribe electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers.

The examiner notes that claim 2 relates to column 9, lines 49-54 and figure 6 of Barnett. Here Barnett discloses an event directory screen that allows a user to obtain more information about an event, and, if desired, the user can subscribe to the event and it will be added to the user's calendar. Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, and again Barnett does not disclose a method

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of determining and incorporating topics that are related to a calendar event. Barnett requires a user to search categories, retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then store event information in a calendar, whereas the present invention receives a calendar events and retrieves a subscription(s) and related information topics to incorporate a link to the related subscription(s).

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 13, 19, and 20 are described by the examiner as being taught by column 9, lines 60-64 in Barnett. Event categories and related information describing an event(s) are provided to the system and stored in a database for the user to later access, such as through online service listing scheduled events. The event categories of Barnett obtain information of possible calendar events that a user can add to their calendar. The present invention receives a calendar event and identifies which event category it relates to, and in turn, can determine one or more live information topics that are related to the calendar event. Barnett does not match event categories to a calendar event or provide or create a subscription to information topics that are found to be related to a user's calendar event. Dependent claims 4, 14, and 15 referenced by the examiner as correlating with column 9, lines 55-59 of Barnett, which describe several types of event categories do not disclose the present invention's method for information retrieval related to a calendar event.

Claims 6 and 12 are described by the examiner as being taught by column 10, lines 15-22 and column 11, lines 3-7 of Barnett. Here Barnett discloses that the apparatus receives event feed from content partners and stores the events in a database, implementing them as a collection of programs and scripts for automated operation and import of event data. Once an event has been cached, event data can be accessed from the cache or the database if needed. As previously noted, Barnett requires a user to search categories, retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then store event information in a calendar. The present invention obtains

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information from subscription providers that is related to a calendar event (e.g. weather conditions). If information is not readily available, the present invention creates a corresponding subscription (with a provider). Barnett, however, obtains calendar events from partners/providers, that is, events that the providers create, and allows a user to view information related to the event (such as date and time the event is to take place) before adding the event as a calendar entry. Further, Barnett does not disclose incorporating a link to a subscription(s) within a calendar event or subscribing electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers.

Summary:

It has been shown that Barnett does not disclose at least the following claimed features: incorporating, within said calendar event, a link to a subscription; parsing a calendar event to identify at least one event category; at least one event category used when determining one or more live information topics; determining if a corresponding subscription already exists; creating and opening a corresponding subscription; information topics published by an information service or one or more topic channels; and determining a set of topic names associated with a calendar event. As such, Barnett does not provide the claimed elements as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or, alternatively, does not suggest these features.

As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 09 0441.

STANLEY J. LACASSE

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If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaclyn A. Schade
Registration No. 50,569

1725 Duke Street
Suite 650
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838 7683
January 24, 2003

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Address: 99-00000
Date: 04-10-2003

APPENDIX A

6. (amended) A method of subscribing electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers, as per claim 1, wherein said step of opening at least one subscription further comprises the step:

for each of said one or more live information topics, performing the steps:

- determining if a corresponding subscription already exists;
- if said corresponding subscription does not exist, creating and opening said corresponding subscription, and
- if said corresponding subscription does exist, then opening said corresponding subscription.

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